

but I'm writing this  
at a typewriter I don't really own,  
in a cluttered corner of the one-bedroom apartment  
that the girl I live with claims is hers

and I feel for you  
but can't quite find you.

#### BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

I understand there's a book out  
on how to get your kids  
to do what you want them to.  
Well, I dropped in for a holiday drink  
with my friend Dave Cherin,  
and he had told his younger son,  
Dylan Thomas Cherin  
(I hold Dave's wife,  
Patricia Hamilton Dominique Esme O'Connor Cherin,  
fully responsible for the name,  
especially since her other two kids  
are named Alexander Hamilton  
and Sarah Isadora)

and anyway Dave had told young Dylan Thomas  
that if he was bad  
Santa would bring Rudolph in the house with him  
and Rudolph would take a dump  
right under the Christmas tree  
and Santa would put Dylan Thomas's name on it.

The child was behaving perfectly.

#### OLD FOLKS' DAY

i was in the bank near the retirement community  
(where the lines are always long  
because the financial dealings are so complicated,  
not to mention that the customers look upon  
their visit as being of a social nature)

when i saw this old guy fall off his bicycle.

he didn't get up,  
and my first impulse was to rush to his assistance,  
but my wiser nature prevailed



and sure enough  
the first old lady in line  
hobbled out to help him,  
moving me up a good ten minutes.

she lifted his bike from on top of him ...  
but then it became too much for her,  
and she dropped it on his head.  
honest to God i almost laughed out loud,  
and thank God i didn't  
because i would surely have been caned to death.

anyway, later in the day,  
i had a birthday card from my aunt in florida,  
who's always been a fine, buxom, lusty gal,  
and she pulled one of the great all-time Freudian  
abbreviations: she said that her husband  
was keeping busy in the condominium association

that, in fact, he was the "President of Ass."

i know you're thinking, "you son of a bitch,  
you'll even sacrifice your dear aunt and uncle for a  
laugh;  
wait till you're an old duck on a bicycle!"

let me assure you that,  
if you're only as old as you feel,

i'm there already.

#### ADONIS FOR A DAY

this sculptress did a bust of me once  
and she made it look like adonis.

her boyfriend, who was a famous poet,  
stuck around while i was sitting for it  
and he did everything possible to distract her.

when it came out looking like adonis,  
he was really pissed off,  
and he told her it didn't look like me at all  
and he talked her into taking my name off of it  
and entering it in competitions  
as "the poet idealized,"  
or something like that.

but when i was about to have a book of stories out,  
the publisher got in touch with her